



## **Federal Legislative Activities - Week of November 10, 2014**

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Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of November 10th below.

### **Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity**

#### **Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

2:00 | Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing: Ebola Outbreak Government Response

4:00 | Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Chairman Tester, D-Mont.) hearing to consider the nomination of Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri to be chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

After the cloture votes, the Senate plans to vote on a motion to concur in the House amendment to a Senate bill ([S. 1086](#)) that would reauthorize federal Child Care and Development Block Grants. The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act provides funds to states to help low-income families pay for childcare while a parent is at work or in an educational/job training program.

#### **Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 | House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing: Assessing the Implementation of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014

10:00 | House Committee on Foreign Affairs Hearing: Combating Ebola in West Africa: The International Response

12:30 | Members of both parties are expected to meet to elect their leaders for the 114th Congress. The parties also plan to hold policy lunches starting at 12:30 p.m.

#### **Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs Hearing: Veterans Health Care Bills:

[H.R. 4720](#) — Medal of Honor Priority Care Act. The bill increases, from third to first, the priority for enrollment in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system given to Medal of Honor recipients, regardless of the date on which the medal is awarded.

[H.R. 4977](#) — Creating Options for Veterans Expedited Recovery (COVER) Act. This bill establishes the Veterans Expedited Recovery Commission to: examine the efficacy of the evidence-based therapy model used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for treating mental health illnesses of veterans and identify areas to improve wellness-based outcomes.

[H.R. 5059](#) — Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. This bill requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Secretary of Defense (DOD), at least annually, to each arrange for an independent third party evaluation of, respectively, the VA and DOD mental health care and suicide prevention programs.

[H.R. 5266](#) — National Estuary Program. This bill reauthorizes the National Estuary Program (NEP) through FY 2018, authorizing the appropriation of \$27 million for each year. The measure also

establishes a competitive award program within the NEP to preserve the ecological and economic well-being of coastal areas, with at least 15% of appropriated NEP funds to be used for those awards.

[H.R. 5475](#) — A bill to amend title 38, US Code, to improve the care provided by the secretary of Veterans Affairs to newborn children. This bill increases post-delivery care services from 7 to 14 days.

[H.R. 5484](#) — Toxic Exposure Research Act. This bill directs the Secretary to establish an advisory board to: (1) advise the national research center, (2) determine which health conditions in the descendants of individuals who were exposed to toxic substances while serving in the Armed Forces result from such exposure for purposes of determining those descendants' eligibility for VA medical care, and (3) study and evaluate claims of service-related exposure to toxic substances by current and former members of the Armed Forces.

### **Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and the Balance of the Week**

Additional Legislation to be Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.R. 4194](#) — House to concur to Senate Amendments to the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014. This bill eliminates current requirements that 17 federal departments and other entities prepare 48 specific reports for Congress. It also modifies the requirements for five reports mandated under current law.

[H.R. 4867](#) - Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act. The bill provides that certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.